

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5638

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BONN 00663

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, IC, UK, NATO

SUBJECT: THE COD WAR

SUMMARY: IN VISIT TO BONN JANUARY 13, ICELANDIC STATE SECRETARY THORSTEINSSON PRESENTED HARD LINE POSITION TO FRG ON COD WAR. FRG BELIEVES THAT IF UK WILL AGREE TO WITHDRAW FRIGATES, THERE IS CHANCE TO AVOID BREAK IN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF BRIEFED US TODAY AT GENSCHER'S INSTRUCTION ON VISIT TO BONN JANUARY 13 BY ICELANDIC STATE SECRETARY THORSTEINSSON, WHO IS VISITING ALL EUROPEAN NATO CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN ICELAND'S POSITION ON COD WAR.
2. THORSTEINSSON GAVE GENSCHER A CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM SUMMING UP THE ICELANDIC POSITION. FONOFF HAS PASSED US THIS MEMORANDUM ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.
3. CONCLUSION OF ICELANDIC MEMORANDUM IS THAT ICELAND HAS NO OPTION OTHER THAN TO CARRY OUT FOLLOWING THREE STEPS:

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(A) BREAK RELATIONS WITH THE UK

(B) BOYCOTT ALL NATO MEETINGS

(C) TAKE FURTHER MEASURES (IMPLIED: TO LEAVE NATO)

4. THORSTEINSSON STRESSED TO GENSCHER THAT IT IS VITAL THAT THE UK WITHDRAW ITS FRIGATES IMMEDIATELY. HE IMPLIED THAT IF THE UK TOOK THIS STEP, ICELAND WOULD NOT BREAK RELATIONS.

5. THE FRG CONCLUDED THAT IF THE FRIGATES, AND ONLY THE FRIGATES, WERE WITHDRAWN, ICELAND MAY NOT TAKE FURTHER STEPS PENDING CONCLUSION OF LUNS' MEDIATION EFFORTS.

6. WHILE THE FRG STRESSED ITS SUPPORT FOR LUNS AND WISHES TO REMAIN NEUTRAL IN THIS CONFLICT, FONOFF MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI TELEPHONED UK STATE SECRETARY HATTERSLEY LATE TODAY TO BRIEF HATTERSLEY ON THE ICELANDIC PRESENTATION AND TO INFORM HIM OF THE FRG CONCLUSION. HATTERSLEY THANKED WISCHNEWSKI FOR THE INFORMATION, SAID HE WOULD REPORT IT TO WILSON, AND REMARKED THAT QUOTE IT IS A VICIOUS CIRCLE WHICH SOMEONE MUST BREAK UNQUOTE.

7. THORSTEINSSON, WHO HAS VISITED OSLO AND COPENHAGEN, DEPARTED FOR ROME TODAY. HE INTENDS TO VISIT ANKARA, ATHENS, LISBON, PARIS, LUXEMBOURG, THE HAGUE, AND BRUSSELS IN THAT ORDER.

8. WE CAN REPORT THE ICELANDIC POSITION IN GREATER DETAIL IF THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE THIS INFORMATION ALREADY.

9. COPY OF ICELANDIC CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM POUCHED EUR/NE:PICKNEY.

10. FONOFF ASKED US TO KEEP CONFIDENTIAL THE FACT THAT IT HAS BRIEFED US ON THE ICELANDIC POSITION. HILLENBRAND

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